

Message Text

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60
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-10 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 /072 W
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R 302133Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0227
INFO DIA WASHDC
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 2288

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, HO
SUBJ: GOH LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS THE FIRST CRIMINAL COURT HAS NOW TAKEN THE TESTIMONY OF JORGE ARTURO RAINA (INVESTIGATING COMMISSION COORDINATOR), BENNATON, GENERAL LOPEZ, AND HOUSTON LACOMBE IN THE CASE AGAINST BENNATON AND UNITED BRANDS. THE PROCEEDINGS ARE HELD IN STRICT SECRECY CONCERNING THE CONTENT OF TESTIMONY.

2. ACCORDING TO EL TIEMPO OF MAY 29, COORDINATOR REINA APPEARED BEFORE A STUDENT ASSEMBLY AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (UNAH) BRANCH IN SAN PEDRO SULA MAY 28 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO TIEMPO REINA SAID THAT WHILE IN SWITZERLAND THE COMMISSION RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM FORMER MINFIN MANUEL ACOSTA BONILLA SAYING THAT HE WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE BRIBERY EPISODE AND THAT IF THE COMMISSION FOUND MONEY IN HIS NAME IN A SWISS BANK ACCOUNT, HE WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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DONATE IT TO THE HONDURAN PEOPLE. REINA ALSO EXPRESSED

THE VIEW THAT BENNATON COULD BE MERELY AN INTER-MEDIARY IN THE BRIBERY WHO COULD BE PROTECTING OTHERS. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY PLEDGED TO THE STUDENTS TO BEGIN AN IMMEDIATE CAMPAIGN AIMED AT THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE FRUIT COMPANIES.

3. ON MAY 26 A NEW ORGANIZATION CALLED "THE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RECOVERY OF NATIONAL DIGNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY" WAS FORMED. THE ORGANIZATION IS COMPOSED OF STUDENT, LABOR AND OTHER "POPULAR" GROUPS THAT HAVE BEEN AGITATING FOR THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE FRUIT COMPANIES. THIS ORGANIZATION RESEMBLES OTHERS WHICH EXIST ONLY TO ISSUE POLICY STATEMENTS BUT TAKE NO ACTION.

SANCHEZ

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